

Remarks

The indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

In particular, it is noted that in the reasons for allowance of claim 11, the Examiner has recognized that the prior art does not show "forming an inverse multiplex group among physical output links on more than one inverse multiplexer". This is indeed an important aspect of the invention. Claim 1 has been amended to make it clear that the controller operates to form such a group, and it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 should now be allowable for essentially the same reason that the Examiner indicated claim 11 would be allowable. Claim 1 recites that the inverse multiplex group is made up of links from both multiplexer devices.

The applicants have attended to the informality objections. It is not believed necessary to recite each amendment since in most cases they are self-explanatory. The Examiner will note that the applicants have used consistent terminology throughout, particularly with regard to the inverse multiplexer device and the "other like inverse multiplexer device".

The expansion ports have been identified as a "first expansion port" and a "corresponding expansion port" to avoid confusion throughout.

The "ports" have been clarified in claim 8, which is directed to the receive aspect of the multiplexer device, which in the preferred embodiment receives inverse multiplexed ATM cells and outputs them through a UTOPIA interface.

The dependency of the wrongly numbered claims has been corrected to attend to the improper antecedent objections relating to these claims.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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